

Flyers lose, but gain respect in first year

Varsity 1 Football Playoffs: Raiders advance to semifinal next week

Posted By BERNIE PUCHALSKI, STANDARD STAFF

The Eden Flyers football team may have lost Thursday's Varsity 1 football quarter-final 33-7 to Holy Cross, but it certainly gained some respect.

The eighth-seeded Flyers played the unbeaten Raiders tough all game before Holy Cross put the game away with

two late scores.

"The boys played hard, but Holy Cross is a great football team and they played just as hard and took it," Eden coach Jeremy Walsh said.

In its first season of Varsity 1 play, Eden finished 3-3 in the regular season.

"Our defence showed all season long that they can make plays, and that's what they did today," Walsh said. "They kept us in this game until the very end of the fourth quarter."

Eden will now lose many of its veterans and will field a team loaded with returning Grade 9 and 10 players.

"In our first season in Varsity 1, we proved we belong and we're going to do the same thing again next year," Walsh said.

Holy Cross Jim Craig certainly wasn't expecting to blow out Eden.

"They played great and we expect that in the playoffs," he said. "They were 3-3, they had a good season and we expected a good game from them."

In pushing its unbeaten record to 7-0, the Raiders were once again led by strong line play. The defensive line held the Flyers to 79 rushing yards while the offensive line helped the Raiders gain 355 yards on the ground.

"Our line play has been really, really good this year," Craig said in an understatement.

A key part of that play is four-year starting offensive and defensive lineman Mike Meirzwa.

"He doesn't come off the field and he hasn't been off the field since I've been coaching him," Craig said. "He has been a great asset for us all these years."

The 6-foot-3, 235-pounder is enjoying his final season of high school football and having a shot at a championship in his final season.

"It has been really great trying our best to make it to the top," the 17-year-old said.

"It has been a great way to end off the year."

Boasting an average around 90, Meirzwa has no plans to stick around for a 12B victory lap. He plans to study kinesiology at McMaster or Brock and hopes to become a chiropractor.

"I'm trying my best to enjoy every last moment of it. Everybody is working together and if everything does things right, you win."

Bucs 22 Marauders 6

Once again, it was too much Adam Cherrie for the Beamsville Bucs' opposition.

Cherrie had another solid two-way game, scoring touchdowns on an 80-yard kick return and an 85-yard run, along with a 20-yard field goal. Overall, he had 15 carries for 144 yards and pulled down an interception on the defensive side of the ball.

Drew Christie had a two-yard touchdown run among his nine carries for 34 yards and Tyler Wormald added another 20 yards offensively on six carries.

Nick Williams scored for A. N. Myer on a four-yard run.

Bulldogs 33 Spartans 6

The Sir Winston Churchill Bulldogs forgot about forfeiting two games and losing head coach Peter Perron to suspension this week by taking care of business on the football field.

With the win over the visiting Westlane Spartans, the Bulldogs have advanced to a Varsity 1 semifinal Friday at Holy Cross.

"We were extremely proud of the boys today for the way they responded after a very tough and emotional week," coach Peter Partridge said. "It was not an easy situation for the team, but our leaders stepped up this week during practice."

Alex Christie led the way for the Bulldogs with touchdown runs of 10, two, nine and nine yards. Josh Brown-Myrie completed the scoring for Churchill with a 25-yard punt return.

"We played extremely well and controlled the line of scrimmage, which was key in the tough conditions today," Partridge said.

The Bulldogs led 13-6 at the half after a scoreless first quarter. Westlane's lone major came on a 70-yard pass from Jordan Maxim to Wilson Burch. The ensuing convert was blocked by Ryan Saunders.

"Our guys played as well as they could," said Westlane coach Jason Babony, adding his team found out it was playing the defending champions less than 24 hours before game time.

Luca Petriello, Brown-Myrie and Andrew Dunlop had interceptions and fumbles were scooped up by Devon Miller, Jarod Cardas, and Jaeger Perna. Jeff Finley added a sack for Churchill.

"I was really proud of the team for staying level-headed through this tough week," Partridge said.

Hornets 22 Redcoats 11

At Niagara Falls, the Stamford Hornets advanced to next week's semifinal playoff round despite giving up two interceptions and three fumbles.

Governor Simcoe's Paul Hookings had the interception and Paul Redman recovered a fumble.

Stamford's Cam Brockwell dove in from two yards out and Rob Farquharson scored on a six-yard run. A fumble by Stamford deep in its own territory resulted in the Redcoats' lone touchdown, a three-yard run by Jordan Clout. Farquharson score his second touchdown on a 56-yard run in the fourth quarter.

THE SCOOP

Raiders 33 Flyers 7

Standard Star of the Game: Holy Cross Raiders' Cory Pattison with an interception and 10 carries for 139 yards, including a four-yard TD run.

For the Holy Cross Raiders: Pattison, TD; Jordan Davis, 21 carries for 176 yards, including a 34-yard TD run; 21-yard TD run by Nick Hay; 14-yard field goal by Mario Soldo; two interceptions by Kyle Vanderkooi; interception by Zach Korsmit.

For the Eden Flyers: One-yard TD run by Mitchel Punton; fumble recovery and two catches for 54 yards by Calvin Mech; Dayton Kruitbosch, 113 yards passing.

Game stats: First downs: HC 15, Eden [6](#). Net offence (pass-run= total): HC 14-355=369, Eden 113-79=192. Turnovers: HC 2, Eden 6. Penalties: HC 6-for-55 yards, Eden 7-for-50 yards.

Up next: Holy Cross hosts Sir Winston Churchill Friday in a Varsity 1 semifinal.